

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the first 15 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final 15 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; further, that the Senate then proceed to the consideration of motions to instruct conferees with respect to the deficit reduction bill as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, under the time agreement that we just entered into this evening, we have a number of motions to instruct conferees with respect to the deficit reduction bill that we will debate and vote on over the next 2 days. We will vote on three of those motions—the Baucus motion on Medicaid, the Carper TANF motion, and the Harkin food stamp motion—during tomorrow's session. These votes will start somewhere between 11:45 and noon. We will finish the remaining motions to instruct on Thursday.

Over the course of this week, we will be very busy, as I pointed out earlier this morning. We will begin voting around midday tomorrow, and in all likelihood we will be voting Thursday afternoon as well. We will be stacking votes Thursday afternoon. We will be voting on Friday and may well go into this weekend if we are unable to finish our business by late Friday. That means possibly Saturday and then maybe into next week. We have a whole slew of bills that we need to address, that we have been doing and will be doing over the next several days.

Tomorrow I will have more to say about the schedule.

IRAQ ELECTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, elections are currently underway in Iraq. It is very exciting. The election formally in Iraq itself will be Thursday, although in the United States those Iraqi citizens are voting. They are actually voting in Tennessee at one of those distant, remote locations, remote from Iraq.

That is a powerful statement to the progress made in Iraq over the last 2½ years, that this is the third election in the last year. At the first election in January, about 8.5 million turned out; at the next election in mid-October,

over 10 million people turned out; at the third election, we will have to wait and see, but it looks as though there will be record numbers of individuals voting in Iraq.

Two-and-a-half years ago, we had a country that had no representative government whatsoever and had a tyrant, Saddam Hussein, oppressing the people there. This morning, several of us had the opportunity to talk, by teleconferencing, with our Ambassador in Iraq, as well as General Casey. They did review with us a number of the real advances that have been made. When you look at issues such as Iraqis who are currently participating, they cited several statistics. In August 2004, there were five Iraqi army battalions actually in the fight. There are currently 97 Iraqi battalions in the fight. In July 2004, there were no ready operational divisional headquarters. Today there are at least 7 operational divisional headquarters and 31 operational brigade headquarters.

There has been huge progress over the last year, year and a half. In November 2004, there were about 110,000 fully trained and equipped Iraqi security forces. Today there are almost double that, a year later, 214,000 trained and equipped security forces.

Does all of this make a difference? One of the fascinating statistics cited and brought to my attention was compared to last year, or at some point last year, how many tips were being provided by the Iraqi people. In many ways it reflects the confidence the Iraqi people have in law enforcement and security. In March, there were just under 500 tips to the Iraqi Armed Forces. In September 2005, there were 4,700 tips by Iraqi citizens to Iraqi and coalition forces. Therefore, information is flowing much more freely, which reflects, I believe, the confidence the Iraqis have in their security forces. One tip resulted in the disruption of an IED factory and the capture of 4,000 pounds of explosives and about a dozen 500-pound bombs. That shows the importance of the improved security by the Iraqi people and what it allows to flow, in terms of information.

Mr. President, 75,000 Iraqi policemen are patrolling Iraqi cities, and another 5,700 are in training. I think we are seeing real progress there. There is much progress to make, but the progress being made currently, as we speak, and will be made over the next several days is truly exciting in terms of an operational, permanent government being formed. Lastly, as I mentioned earlier, it won't be until actually April that the new government is in place. The elections are occurring now. Certification takes place in December, and the final is in early January. From that point, the government takes root. So the government itself won't be formed until April of next year.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:21 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 14, 2005, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate December 13, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL L. DOMINGUEZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS, VICE CHARLES S. ABELL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

RAYMOND L. ORBACH, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GARY A. GRAPPO, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN.

BRADFORD R. HIGGINS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (RESOURCE MANAGEMENT), VICE CHRISTOPHER BANCROFT BURNHAM.

BRADFORD R. HIGGINS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, VICE CHRISTOPHER BANCROFT BURNHAM, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MICHELL C. CLARK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE WILLIAM LEIDINGER.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM SERVICES

ANNE-IMELDA RADICE, OF VERMONT, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM SERVICES, VICE ROBERT S. MARTIN.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RONALD F. SAMIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID L. FROSTMAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES W. GRAVES
BRIGADIER GENERAL LINDA S. HEMMINGER
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN M. HOWLETT
BRIGADIER GENERAL HAROLD L. MITCHELL
BRIGADIER GENERAL HANFRED J. MOEN, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM M. RAJCZAK
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID N. SENTRY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ERIKA C. STEUTERMAN

To be brigadier general

COLONEL JOHN M. ALLEN
COLONEL ROBERT E. BAILEY, JR.
COLONEL ERIC W. CRABTREE
COLONEL DEAN J. DESPINOY
COLONEL WALLACE W. FARRIS, JR.
COLONEL JOHN C. FOBIAN
COLONEL THOMAS W. HARTMANN
COLONEL JAMES R. HOGUE
COLONEL MARK A. KYLE
COLONEL CAROL A. LEE
COLONEL JON R. SHASTEEN
COLONEL ROBERT O. TARTER
COLONEL HOWARD N. THOMPSON
COLONEL CHRISTINE M. TURNER
COLONEL PAUL M. VAN SICKLE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL D. BARBERO
BRIGADIER GENERAL SALVATORE F. CAMBRIA
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN M. CUSTER III
BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD P. FORMICA
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID P. FRIDOVICH
BRIGADIER GENERAL KATHLEEN M. GAINEY
BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM T. GRISOLI
BRIGADIER GENERAL CARTER F. HAM